

FREE DESTINATION GUIDE

SANTORINI

Greece



Blue domes, black sand, and a caldera that earns every photo.

SAFETY: US State Dept: Level 1

Travelling with ActorTonyB & Nala The Shih Tzu

Powered by Expedia.com

Top Sights

- **Oia Sunset.** The famous blue domes at golden hour; claim a spot an hour early or book a terrace dinner.
- **Fira to Oia Caldera Hike.** A 6 mile cliff path along the crater rim, the single best walk in the Aegean. Start by 9 am.
- **Akrotiri.** A Minoan city preserved in volcanic ash, Greece's Pompeii, with a modern protective roof.
- **Catamaran Caldera Cruise.** Sail past Red Beach and White Beach, swim at the hot springs, eat grilled seafood on board.
- **Red Beach and the Black Sand Beaches.** Red cliffs at Akrotiri's beach; long black sand stretches at Kamari and Perissa with full services.
- **Pyrgos Village.** The old capital: quiet lanes, a Venetian castle, and sunset without Oia's crowds.
- **Santo Wines.** Assyrtiko tasting on a caldera terrace; book the sunset seating in season.
- **Ancient Thera.** Hellenistic ruins on the ridge between Kamari and Perissa, best paired with a beach afternoon.

Local Tips

- Shoulder season is the secret: late May to June and September have warm seas, open tavernas, and half the crowds.
- Cruise ship crowds flood Fira and Oia midday; do your village exploring early morning and after 5 pm.
- KTEL buses all run through Fira's station and cost a few euro; have cash and patience at peak hours.
- Pack a bag you can carry up steps. Cliff hotels mean stairs, lots of them, and porters charge per piece.
- Tap water comes from desalination; drink bottled water, which every hotel provides.
- Book ferries between islands early in summer, and give yourself a buffer day before a flight home.

Customs & Etiquette

Do

- Greet with kalimera (good morning) and use efharisto for thanks; Greeks light up at the effort.
- Cover shoulders and knees for churches and monasteries; many provide wraps at the door.
- Take the afternoon slow: villages observe quiet hours roughly 3 to 5 pm.
- Tip by rounding up or leaving 5 to 10 percent in tavernas; service is warm and unhurried.

Please Don't

- Do not pocket pumice or pebbles from protected beaches; it is fined.
- Do not rely on taxis; the island has few and they vanish at sunset in Oia.
- Do not flush paper in older plumbing; bins beside the toilet are the Greek island norm.
- Do not expect dinner before 8 pm in village tavernas; the island eats late.

Things to Know Before You Go

Currency. Euro (EUR). Cards are accepted widely; small cash helps for buses and village bakeries.

Language. Greek. English is spoken throughout the tourist areas; the alphabet is the main puzzle, so save addresses in your maps app.

Best time to visit. May to June and September to early October: warm sea, golden light, and room to breathe.

Getting around. KTEL buses hub through Fira. Renting a small car or ATV opens the south of the island; book port or airport transfers ahead.

Five phrases that open doors

Yia sas	Hello
Efharisto	Thank you
Parakalo	Please / you are welcome
Signomi	Excuse me
Pou einai i paralia?	Where is the beach?

What to Bring

- A bag you can carry up stairs yourself; cliff paths and hotel steps are the island's welcome mat.
- Flat, grippy shoes or sandals with backs; marble lanes and caldera paths are polished smooth.
- A light jacket for evenings; the caldera breeze cools fast after sunset, even in July.
- A European plug adapter (Type C or F) and a portable charger for long photo days.
- Swim shoes for the pebble and black sand beaches; the sand gets stove hot at midday.
- Motion sickness tablets if boats bother you; the caldera cruise is worth it.

What to Expect

Weather: dry, sunny, and windy from May to October. The meltemi wind peaks in July and August. Winters are quiet and many places close.

Pace: slow island time with two daily rush hours when cruise passengers flood Fira and Oia, mid morning and sunset.

Costs in practice: Santorini is the priciest Greek island. Caldera view anything carries a premium; village tavernas one bay over are gentler.

How tourists are received: warmly and professionally; tourism is the island's craft. A kalimera in the morning goes a long way.

What NOT to Bring

- High heels for evenings out; you will trade them for flats by the second staircase.
- A large rolling suitcase per person; porters, steps, and narrow lanes make small bags a blessing.
- Drones without checking: much of the caldera and the airport zone is restricted airspace.
- Plans to flush paper anywhere on the island; plumbing is old school, use the bin provided.

Safety Rating

US State Dept advisory level: Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions

Greece carries the US State Department's lowest advisory level. Santorini is calm and village paced; realistic risks are practical ones: summer heat on the hiking path, strong sun, and scooter accidents on unfamiliar roads.

Three practical safety moves

- Carry water and a hat on the caldera hike; there is almost no shade for 6 miles.
- If you rent an ATV or scooter, wear the helmet and skip the wine tasting that day.
- Enroll in the free STEP program at step.state.gov, even for Level 1 countries.

Advisory levels change. Check the current rating for your destination at travel.state.gov before you book and again before you fly. Summary reflects the advisory in effect in October 2026.

Budget Snapshot

Rough per person daily ranges in US dollars, including lodging, food, local transport, and activities. Airfare not included. Treat these as planning estimates, not quotes.

Tier	Per day (USD)	What it looks like
Budget traveler	\$110 to \$160 per day	Family hotel in Kamari or Perissa, KTEL buses, bakery breakfasts, beach days.
Mid range	\$220 to \$320 per day	Caldera view room in Imerovigli, catamaran cruise, taverna dinners with a view.
Comfort	\$420 plus per day	Cave suite with plunge pool, private sailing, fine dining in Oia.

Ready to Go?

You have the sights, the tips, the customs, and the budget. Now put dates on it. Compare flights, stays, cars, and activities for Santorini in one place, with live prices and traveler reviews.

BOOK THIS TRIP ON EXPEDIA

www.expedia.com

Booking link: <https://www.expedia.com> (we may earn a commission when you book through links in this guide, at no extra cost to you).



JOIN R&R; WITH TONY B: the community where all of this lives.

Start FREE for 7 days, then \$49/month. Sign up at <https://rrwithtonyb.com>

Inside you get every course: 90 Days (Success, Wealth, Time), You, The Walking Brand, Home Buyer & Seller HQ, the agent success courses, Kids & Creators, and acting courses.

You also get the Actor & Creator Resource Library: 35 brand deals free on your trial; members unlock the full 100 plus 10 new brands every week.

Plus Hired From Home remote job listings, the DIY Help Desk (send in a repair and get a detailed fix-it PDF back), weekly brand drops, buyer programs, and member requests for state-specific resources.

Watch the videos, then come inside and put it to work. Your first 7 days are free.